

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, the conventional absorbent products which use the aforementioned absorbing mechanism have two major intrinsic problems. The first problem is that the absorbing rate is lowered as the absorber's absorption volume of discharged liquid increases. The second problem is that the amount of liquid returning from the absorber to the top sheet, or the re-wet amount, increases as the absorption volume of discharged liquid grows larger, especially in the vicinity of the limit of absorbing capacity. These cause an increase of moisture percentage on the surface of the wearer's body during and after discharging of the liquid, making it uncomfortable to keep it on, and easily susceptible to becoming sweaty, as well as becoming a primary cause of diaper rash.

Please replace the heading beginning on page 2, line 21, with the following rewritten heading:

Disclosure Summary of the Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The inventors of the present invention, as~~ As a result of research devoted to achieving the above objective, defying traditional common sense, ~~have discovered~~ it was discovered that it is possible, by positioning on the upper side of an absorber a liquid-impermeable surface sheet in place of a liquid-permeable top sheet to which the discharged liquid is supplied, and by designing a structure wherein a flow passage from the upper side of a surface sheet reaching the lower portion of an absorber is provided, to realize an absorbing

mechanism that diffuses a part or all of the discharged liquid from the lower side to the upper side of an absorber. ~~The inventors of the present invention, furthermore, have~~ Furthermore, it was discovered that, by the above absorbing mechanism, the absorbing rate is prevented from significantly lowering with the elapse of time, and the re-wet amount becomes extremely small. ~~Based on this knowledge, the inventors of the present invention have completed the present invention.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 1 is~~ FIGs. 1 (A) and (B) are a set of illustrative cross-section views showing a portion of an example of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 2 is~~ FIGs. 2 (A) - (D) are a group of illustrative top views and cross-section views showing a portion of examples of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 6 is~~ FIGs. 6 (A) - (F) are a group of illustrative cross-section views, each showing a portion of examples of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 7 is FIGs. 7 (A) - (G)~~ are a group of illustrative top views, each showing a portion of examples of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 10 is FIGs. 10 (A) - (C)~~ are a group of illustrative cross-section views, each showing a portion of examples of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 11 is FIGs. 11 (A) and (B)~~ are a set of illustrative top views, each showing a portion of examples of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 12 is FIGs. 12 (A) and (B)~~ are a set of illustrative top views, showing examples of the back sheet used in the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 13 is FIGs. 13 (A) and (B)~~ are a set of illustrative cross-section views, each showing a portion of examples of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 15 is FIGs. 15 (A) - (C) are~~ a set of illustrative cross-section views showing examples of a portion of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 16 is an illustrative top view FIGs. 16 (A) - (D) are a group of illustrative top views~~ showing a portion of an example of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 17 is FIGs. 17 (A) - (G) are~~ a group of illustrative top views, each showing an example of preferred configuration of the back sheet when the member constituting the back sheet itself constitutes the housing for the absorber.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 19 is FIGs. 19 (A) - (C) are~~ a group of explanatory drawings, each showing an example of the absorbent product of the present invention with a member for pulling out.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 20 is FIGs. 20 (A) - (D) are~~ a group of illustrative top views, each showing an example of a portion of the absorbent product of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 25 is FIGs. 25 (A) and (B) are~~ a set of explanatory drawings showing the method of measuring absorbing rate in the Examples.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIGs. 26 (A) and (B) are~~ an illustrative front view and an illustrative top view showing the absorbent product that includes plural pieces of absorber units and is used in the Examples.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 27 is FIGs. 27 (A) - (C) are~~ a set of illustrative cross-section views of the absorber units used in the Examples.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 28 is FIGs. 28 (A) - (C) are~~ a set of illustrative cross-section views of the absorbent products using the absorber units shown in FIG. 27.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 30 is FIGs. 30 (A) and (B) are~~ a set of illustrative cross-section views showing a portion of an example of a conventional absorbent product.

Please replace the heading beginning on page 15, line 7, with the following rewritten heading:

Best Mode for Carrying Out Detailed Description of the Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

There is no limit in particular to the material or the structure of the surface sheet 10, as long as it is liquid-impermeable. For example, a single-layer ~~synthetic resin film-synthetic resin film~~, and a laminate of a synthetic resin film and a nonwoven fabric provided on the surface of the upper side of the ~~resin film-resin film~~, are preferred. As the synthetic resin film, a film made of resin such as PE (polyethylene), PP (polypropylene), PET (polyethylene terephthalate), polyurethane, or cross-linked PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) and an air-permeable but not liquid-permeable, in other words, breathable film made of above-described resins can be typically employed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In FIG. 9 (B), the surface sheet 10 is composed of a single-layer ~~synthetic-synthetic~~ resin film, wherein the synthetic resin film has concave and convex portions that form flow passages 16, and the skin-contact sheet 28 made of liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is laminated on the surface of the upper side of the surface sheet 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In FIG. 9 (C), the surface sheet 10 is composed of a single-layer ~~sinthetic-synthetic~~ resin film, and the liquid-permeable guide sheet 22 with the flow passages 16 is laminated on the surface of the upper side of the surface sheet 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In FIG. 9 (E), the surface sheet 10 is composed of a single-layer ~~sinthetic-synthetic~~ resin film, and the liquid-permeable guide sheet 22 with a large number of apertures 26-as ~~well as the~~ ~~and the~~ flow passages 16, is laminated on the surface of the upper side of the surface sheet 10. The surface sheet 10 and the guide sheet 22 are integrated by the bonding portions 22a.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In FIG. 11 (B), the surface sheet 10 and the absorber 14 are positioned in the same way as they are in FIG. 11 (A), but because the guide sheet 22 is in ~~the shape~~ ~~the shape~~ of a cross, a portion of the upper surface of the absorber 14 ~~and the a~~ ~~and~~ a portion of the upper surface of the surface sheet 10 are exposed in a different manner from FIG. 11 (A).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Also, for example, there is a highly water-absorbing sheet obtained by the Air Laid method. The ~~Air Laid~~ ~~air-laid~~ method is a method for obtaining a highly water-absorbing sheet by mixing pulverized pulp and SAP, adding a binding agent (such as a heat-sealed fiber) to the mixture, and shaping it into a sheet form and heating it. ~~NovaThin (U.S. Registered~~

~~Trademark~~), NOVATHIN, manufactured by Rayonier Inc. in the U.S., and ~~KINOCLOTH~~ (~~Registered Trademark~~), KINOCLOTH, manufactured by Oji Kinocloth Co., Ltd., for example, are known as highly water-absorbing sheets obtained by this method.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

There are also other examples, such as a highly water-absorbing sheet obtained by making SAP into dispersion slurry and the like, and by the method of coating to have the SAP held on at least one of two surfaces of a discharged-liquid-permeable sheet of a liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric and the like. This highly water-absorbing sheet is precisely described in the specification and other parts of JP 10-168230 A, the specification and other parts of JP 10-314217 A, and the specification and other parts of JP 2000-201975 A, suggested by the inventors of the present invention. The SAP dispersion slurry here is preferably a slurry obtained by dispersing SAP and Micro Fibrillated Cellulose (MFC) in a mixed solvent of water and ethanol. ~~MegaThin (Registered Trademark)~~, MEGATHIN, manufactured by Japan Absorbent Technology Institute, for example, is known as a highly water-absorbing sheet obtained by this method.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 41, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is preferred that the thickness ~~in the of the~~ highly water-absorbing sheet is 1.5mm or less, and more preferably 1mm or less.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 45, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The absorbent products 50 and 51 of the present invention shown in FIGs. 15 (A) and (B) have the absorbent product main body 52 and the housing for the absorber unit 54 directly communicated to each other (in other words, the surface sheet 10 or the guide sheet 22 is exposed), but the aforementioned liquid-permeable skin-contact sheet 28 may be included in at least a portion of the space in between of these two two as shown in FIG. 15 (C).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 17 is a group of illustrative top views, each showing an example of preferred configuration of the back sheet when the member constituting the back sheet itself constitutes the housing for the absorber. In a structure such as this, it is preferred that a durable and water-resistant material such as Gore-Tex, GORE-TEX, for example, is used as a back sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 48, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The absorbent product 60 with the aforementioned guide sheet laminated on the surface of the upper side surface sheet 10 is one of the preferred embodiments of the present invention. invention as shown in FIG. 16 (B). In this embodiment, the guide sheet may be laminated so as to cover the surface sheet over the upper side thereof, as well as to wrap the lateral surfaces of the absorber from the lower side thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 48, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Also, the absorbent product 60 may include a liquid-permeable skin-contact sheet, same as in the case of the absorbent products 50 and 51 as shown in FIG. 16 (C).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 48, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

One of the preferred embodiments of the absorbent product of the present invention, as described above, includes laminated plural pieces of absorber units or ~~absorbers~~ absorbers as shown in FIG. 16 (D). A thin and compact absorber with high SAP content, when for instance the aforementioned highly water-absorbing sheet is used, is especially preferred.

Please replace the Abstract with the attached amended Abstract.